

From: Beverley Fordham, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Christine McInnes, Interim Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee

Subject: Proposed Co-ordinated Schemes for Primary and Secondary Schools in Kent and Admission Arrangements for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2027/28

Key Decision no: 26/00015

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed scheme for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools from September 2027 including the proposed process for non-coordinated In-Year Admissions. Cabinet Member will be asked to accept and determine the co-ordinated schemes for Primary & Secondary Admissions in Kent, the In-Year Admission process for Primary & Secondary schools in Kent and the admission arrangements for the 2027/28 school year.

Recommendations:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the decision to DETERMINE:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year admissions process and Kent Test process as detailed in Appendix B
- c) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix C
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix D
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix C
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled

Secondary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix D

- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix A and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix B

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Authority (LA), as the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, is required to determine its admission arrangements for these schools each year.

1.2 The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities. The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is requested to comment and inform the forthcoming Cabinet Member decision to agree the Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent for 2027/28 and determine the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

1.3 All admission arrangements identified in this document are outside the arrangements for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

1.4 KCC has consulted the Headteachers and Governors of all Kent Primary and Secondary schools on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent Primary and Secondary schools for September 2027. Due to the fact the scheme remains unchanged other than date adjustments to accommodate the minor variations between annual calendars, admissions authorities have been advised that non-response to the consultation, constitutes full acceptance to the proposals.

2. Consultation Processes

2.1 An LA consultation ran from 25 November 2025 and 9 January 2026 and considered the following aspects:

- a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2027/28;
- b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme including the In Year admissions process for 2027/28;

Further LA consultations ran from 17 November 2025 and 2 January 2026 which adjusted the Published Admissions Number (PAN) of the following schools, which were proposed as a result of reduced forecasted demand in the locality around the school:

- Broadwater Down Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15
- Eastry Church of England Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15

- Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School – reduce PAN from 20 to 15
- Hythe Bay CofE Primary School – reduce PAN from 45 to 30
- St Peter’s Church of England Primary School, Aylesford – increase PAN from 24 to 30
- St Saviour’s Church of England Junior School – reduce PAN from 96 to 64

3. Outcome

(a) The Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating In Year admissions process

a.i All Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for 2027/28. No Infant, Junior or Primary schools or Academies have refused to accept the scheme. The scheme dates are set out in a similar way to last year with small adjustments for variations in weekdays and weekends from one year to the next. The scheme specifies a process for schools to follow when making offers for in year applications and includes a requirement to inform the LA of all applications and outcomes to enable continued monitoring of pupil movement to maintain essential safeguarding duties.

a.ii The LA is required to assist parents where they have difficulty securing a school place. Schools and academies must keep the LA informed about the vacancies in each year group as they arise in order for the LA to carry out its statutory duty to ensure every eligible child has a school place.

a.iii The details of the scheme for determination are located in Appendix A

(b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year Admissions Process

b.i The Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme was agreed by all Kent Admissions Authorities. No Secondary schools or Academies refused to accept the proposed scheme. The scheme specifies a process for schools to follow when making offers for in year applications and includes a requirement to inform the LA of all applications and outcomes to enable continued monitoring of pupil movement to maintain essential safeguarding duties.

b.ii The Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme continues to include provision of a centralised assessment process for Kent Grammar schools (The Kent Test). Officers will ensure that suitable arrangements are made for the provision of this assessment process within the forthcoming academic year.

b.iii The LA is required to assist parents where they have difficulty securing a school place. Schools and academies must keep the LA informed about the vacancies in each year group as they arise in order for the LA to carry out its statutory duty to ensure every eligible child has a school place.

b.iv The details of the proposed scheme for determination are located in Appendix B

(c) The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2027/28

c.i The proposed over-subscription criteria for most Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are the same as those used in 2026. The LA is not required to widely consult where there are no proposals to change Community or Voluntary Controlled school's oversubscription criteria.

c.v Details of the over-subscription criteria for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools are located in appendix C.

(d) The Over-subscription Criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools in Kent 2027/28

d.i The proposed over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools is the same as that used in 2026. Because there are no changes proposed, no consultation was required. However, they still require legal determination by the admission authority for those schools.

d.ii Details of the over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent are located in appendix D

(e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28

e.i The proposed PAN for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary, Infant and Junior schools are identified in Appendix C. The LA can only determine the admission number for schools where it is the admissions authority and the schools listed fall into this category, at the time of going to print.

e.ii The LA is not required to hold a local consultation where Published Admissions Numbers are proposed to stay the same or increase. Assistant Directors for Education worked with Community and Voluntary Controlled schools to monitor interest in PAN increases and these are included within Appendix C where agreement was reached.

e.iii Consultations are required where a school wishes to reduce its PAN. PAN reductions are vital to support schools in areas of reduced local demand from receiving a greater number of pupils than they are able to deliver teaching capacity for, within provided funding. Local Assistant Directors for Education worked with schools to support the following reductions:

- Broadwater Down Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15
- Eastry Church of England Primary School – reduce PAN from 30 to 15
- Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School – reduce PAN from 20 to 15
- Hythe Bay CofE Primary School – reduce PAN from 45 to 30
- St Saviour's Church of England Junior School – reduce PAN from 96 to 64

e.iv The LA received two responses that raised concerns about the potential consequences of reducing Eastry Church of England Primary School's PAN, on the basis that it may limit capacity in the event of increased demand. While these PAN reductions protect schools from having to offer more places than they are able to support, the School Admissions Code allows flexibility for any school to offer more places than their PAN should local demand require it. As such, if projections deviate from actual future demand, Assistant

Directors for Education can work with any of these schools to respond accordingly. As such members can be confident that unrealised demand will not be limited in the way respondents are concerned about.

(f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2027/28

f.i The proposed PAN for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary schools are detailed in Appendix D. The LA can only determine the admission number for schools where it is the admissions authority and the schools listed fall into this category, at the time of going to print.

f.ii The LA is not required to hold a local consultation where Published Admissions Numbers are proposed to stay the same or increase. Assistant Directors for Education worked with Community and Voluntary Controlled schools to monitor interest in PAN increases and these are highlighted within Appendix D where agreement was reached.

(g) Relevant Statutory Consultation Areas 2027/28

g.i Relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed for 2027/28. Details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix A and Secondary arrangements in Appendix B.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Delivery of related admissions functions are to be resourced through existing staffing models. No additional financial requirements are identified or expected. There is an annual cost for the provision of Kent test materials in the region of £200-230k in line with provider contracts, which in turn are finalised through competitive tender in conjunction with Procurement colleagues.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Education Act 2002 includes a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities. Agreement to this scheme and admission arrangements fulfills KCC's legal obligations in this area.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed in full and is attached. Kent's admissions scheme is designed to fulfil underlying legislation, which itself is compliant with the Equalities Act and ensures admissions authorities are fundamentally unable to disadvantage pupils with protected characteristics. As such there is extremely limited opportunity for pupils to be treated differently as a result of those characteristics, although KCC monitors nonetheless to ensure proper adherence to legislation.

7. Next Steps

7.1 Following determination, all scheme and admission arrangements documents will be made available on admissions related pages on KCC website for reference. They will inform the administration of KCC's admissions processes and school based decision making for the offering of school places for the 2027/28 academic year.

8. Recommendations:

The Childrens, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the decision to DETERMINE:

- a) The Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year admissions process as detailed in Appendix A
- b) The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 incorporating the In Year admissions process and Kent Test process as detailed in Appendix B
- c) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools in Kent 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix C
- d) The oversubscription criteria relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools in Kent 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix D
- e) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix C
- f) The Published Admissions Number for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix D
- g) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 as detailed in Appendix A and the relevant statutory consultation areas for Kent Secondary Schools 2027/28 as set out in Appendix B

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Background documents

Appendix A - Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 (including relevant statutory consultation areas)

Appendix B - Coordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme 2027/28 (including relevant statutory consultation areas)

Appendix C – Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant, Junior and Primary Schools 2027/28 (including oversubscription criteria and published admission numbers)

Appendix D – Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools 2027/28 (including oversubscription criteria and published admission numbers)

Appendix E – Scheme Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix F – Admission Arrangements Equality Impact Assessment